

REMARKS

Claims 43-49 are pending in the instant application. In the examiner's immediately prior non-final office action, he allowed claims 46-49 but rejected claims 43-45 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to each one of three different references (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,237,586, 6,363,105, and 5,768,306).

For each of these references, the examiner made his rejection simply by block copying the applicant's claim and broadly calling out one or more sections in the corresponding reference without making any attempt whatsoever to identify any actual correspondence between the cited passage and the block-copied claim limitations. The examiner simply cannot as a matter of law make a 102 rejection without offering an explanation of how or in what way the cited reference meets the limitations of the rejected claims.

In its last correspondence, Applicant identified specific differences between the rejected claims and the cited references. In making the 102 rejections final, the examiner ignored the specific differences pointed out in the last response, simply repeated the block-copied language of the rejected claims, and again failed to provide any analysis or even one single comment on how any of the cited references anticipate the rejected claims. By refusing to articulate any basis for these now final rejections, the examiner places Applicant in an impossible situation. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the finality of his rejections and provide specifically articulated grounds for the rejections. To that end, the undersigned agent requests that the examiner schedule a telephone conference at his earliest

convenience, including the examiner's supervisor, so that the examiner's specific reasons for rejection can be identified and meaningfully discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

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